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INFO RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1425
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0785
PUIFHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERES 0912
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 0912
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0850
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0022
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0148
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA 0158
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 5097
S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 TRIPOLI 000201
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NOFORN SIPDIS

FOR CDR AFRICOM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/3/2019
TAGS: OVID WHARD PREL PGOV MARR MASS KPKO LY
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR THE VISIT OF GENERAL WILLIAM WARD TO LIBYA,
MARCH 10-11 TRIPOLI 00000201 001.2 OF 003 CLASSIFIED BY: J. Christopher Stevens, DCM. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1.(C) Summary: Your visit comes two weeks after the most recent Council of Colonels meeting in Tripoli and as Libya is faced with key decisions 2.(S//NF) After several years of negotiation, Libya fulfilled its obligations under the Comprehensive Claims Settlement Agreement - providing f 3.(S//NF) While al-Qadhafi has recently seized the African spotlight, the domestic political and economic situation is at a critical juncture a 4.(S//NF) Since the former Secretary of State's visit to Tripoli in September, regime officials have slowly come to terms with AFRICOM as we have 5.(S//NF) Libya is a top partner in combating transnational terrorism. The regime is genuinely concerned about the rise of Islamic terrorism in 6.(S//NF) Throughout the negotiations to close outstanding compensation claims and re-open to the US, Libyan officials have been keen to purcha 7.(S//NF) Muammar al-Oadhafi's chairmanship of the African Union will be a rhetorical hurdle that AFRICOM must clear throughout the year. However, 8.(S//NF) The combination of al-Qadhafi's continental ambitions, concerns about the destabilizing potential of militant Islam in the Sahel, and 9.(S//NF) Libyan officials value personal relationships with high-ranking Western officials. However, they lack both a bureaucratic capacity am 10.(C) We are confident that your visit to Tripoli will open new doors for continued cooperation. Military cooperation is a key metric to deter